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NEWS AND NOTES

THE ASSOCIATIONS

NEW JERSEY

The February meeting of the Association of Teachers of English of New Jersey was held at the State Normal School Building, Bellville Avenue and Fourth Streets, Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday, February 27, 1915.

President W. Patterson Atkinson called the morning session to order at 10:30 o'clock. About seventy-five were in attendance.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were heard and accepted. Mr. Mellinger E. Henry, chairman of the Membership Committee, Mr. Atkinson, chairman of the Committee on Uniform Grammatical Terminology, Mr. Mertz, chairman of the Committee on Conditions of Teaching English, and Mr. H. W. Underwood, chairman of "The Leaflet" Committee, also presented reports. Mr. Underwood's report embodied a résumé of the work of "The Leaflet" Committee for the past year, and showed that the probable annual cost of "The Leaflet" to the Association would be \$90.00.

Following the reports of these standing committees, Mr. Mertz, acting chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following names as candidates for the offices of the Association during the ensuing year: President, W. Patterson Atkinson, of Lincoln High School, Jersey City; Vice-President, Professor Charles Whitman, Rutgers College; Secretary and Treasurer, George S. Harris, Montclair High School; and two new members of the Executive Committee, Mr. Glenn C. Heller, of Atlantic City, to take the place of Miss Margaret Colt, whose term expired, and Miss Julia Naith, of Asbury Park, to take the place of Miss Alice M. Reeve, retired. These officers were duly elected.

Mr. Hodgson of the Normal School then provided a short musical program.

The address of the morning was made by Mr. Edwin Fairley, of the Jamaica High School, New York City. His topic was "The Ear in Correct Speech." He made a stirring plea for the elimination of technical grammar, and greater emphasis upon drill through oral and written composition.

One of the most pleasant and helpful features of the meeting was the widespread discussion which the speeches provoked. A score or more spoke upon points of interest touched in Mr. Fairley's speech, and so the morning session ended.

The speaker for the afternoon was Professor Walter C. Pitkin, of the School of Journalism, who took for his topic "The English of Business Men, Engineers, and Journalists." His theme was this: There is no such thing, at least for high-school teachers, as business English. Following this speech was a second extended and spiritual discussion.

The meeting adjourned at four o'clock.

GEORGE S. HARRIS, *Secretary*

NEW ENGLAND

The fourteenth annual meeting of the New England Association of Teachers of English was held on March 20 in Tremont Temple, Boston. The general topic was "Magazines and Newspapers in the English Classroom." This was discussed by Professor Dallas Love Sharp, of Boston University, Miss Elizabeth A. Dike, of the Winsor School, Boston, Mrs. Caroline H. Mills, of Newton High School, and Mr. Ralph Dow, of New Bedford High School. The program was concluded with an address by Hamilton Holt, editor of the *Independent*, on "The Editor as Schoolmaster."

George H. Browne, of the Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge, was elected president and Frank W. C. Hersey and Charles S. Thomas were re-elected secretary-treasurer and editor respectively.

ALABAMA

The annual meeting of the Alabama Association was held April 2 and 3 in connection with the State Educational Association meeting at Montgomery. The special feature this year was the presence of the secretary of the National Council, James Fleming Hosis, of the Chicago Normal College, who spoke before both high-school and college and the elementary-school sections of the English Association as well as before the General Educational Association. His topics were "Progress in English Teaching," "Attainable Aims," and "Co-operation."

The attendance upon all the meetings of the English Association was record-breaking. Almost as many stood up as could find seats. Excellent papers were read as follows: "The Teaching of English in the State Normal School," by Nan Barksdale, of the State Normal School at Troy; "Instruction in the Use of Books and Libraries," by Olive Mayes,

Girls' Technical Institute, Montevallo; "Methods in Exposition," by Olin D. Wannamaker, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn; "Spelling," by Clutie Bloodworth, of the Selma schools.

A banquet was held on Friday evening, which was largely attended by educators from all parts of the state. After the meal stirring addresses were made by John Lee Coulter, of Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, and by Margaret Booth, in charge of a private school in Montgomery. There were also reports from various committees, including the committee which is co-operating with Mr. Hopkins in making a survey of conditions in the elementary schools.

WEST VIRGINIA

It is announced that Mr. C. R. Rounds, inspector of English in the normal schools of Wisconsin, will deliver an address before the West Virginia Council of Teachers of English in June. This indicates enterprise and good judgment on the part of the officers of the West Virginia Council.

Walter Barnes, the president of the Council, writes that he has found a means of performing a service for the *English Journal*. When he is making inquiries of advertisers he takes pains to state that he saw the notice in the *Journal*. Mr. Barnes's example is worthy of general imitation.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The New England Oral English and Public Speaking Conference was held at Harvard University on Friday evening, March 19. Papers were read on training the speaking voice by Samuel Arthur King, of Bryn Mawr College, and by Stephen Townsend, of Boston, who illustrated his method by means of songs. C. H. Grangent, of Harvard, spoke on phonetics, and Charles S. Thomas and Samuel Thurber, on oral English.

The Eastern Public Speaking Conference was held at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, on April 5 and 6. The principal topics and speakers were: "Oral English," W. Palmer Smith, Stuyvesant High School, New York City; "Teaching Elocution in a Theological Seminary," Henry W. Smith, Princeton Theological Seminary; "An Experiment with the Referendum," Warren C. Shaw, Dartmouth College; "Judges for Debate," Horace Grant McKean, Union College; "Ethics of the Collegiate Contest," Frank H. Lane, University of Pittsburgh; "The Professor and His Student," Carl Lewis Altmaier, Drexel Institute, and Frederic A. Child, University of Pennsylvania; "The Process of

Argument," H. E. Covington, Princeton University; "Individual Instruction," Paul M. Pearson, Swarthmore College; "Are We too Practical?" A. L. Robinson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; "Mind Culture and Speaking," Silos S. Neff, Neff College.

Some of the more aggressive of the teachers of public speaking in the colleges have started a new organization called the National Association of Academic Teachers of Public Speaking and will undertake to publish a quarterly to issue from the University of Chicago Press. The president of the new society is J. M. O'Neill, of the University of Wisconsin; the secretary is H. B. Gislason, of the University of Minnesota.

THE PREPARATION OF COLLEGE TEACHERS

The committee of the National Council of Teachers of English which is preparing a report upon the preparation of college teachers of English has recently sent out four questionnaires addressed to college English instructors, heads of university departments of English, presidents of colleges, and professors of education respectively. The chief questions asked relate (1) to what preparation college teachers have actually had, (2) to what requirements are set up for those who seek the recommendation of a department, (3) to the comparative opportunities for advancement provided by higher degrees and by successful experience, (4) to what specific courses have been provided for direct preparation, and (5) to opinions of those questioned as to the best means of preparation.

By an unfortunate clerical blunder the name of Professor Manly of the University of Chicago, was omitted from the names of the members of the committee. The entire membership of the committee consists of Professors Clapp, Cox, Earle, Greenough, Hosic, Manly, Mims, Scott, and Thorndike. Extra copies of the question sheets may be obtained from James F. Hosic, chairman of the committee, at Sixty-eighth Street and Stewart Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

LIBRARY CONFERENCES

The annual conference of high schools with the University of Chicago was this year devoted to the consideration of the library. The Conference opened at 1:30 on Friday, April 16, with a general session, which was addressed by Arthur E. Bostwick, of the Public Library in St. Louis, and Matthew S. Dudgeon, of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. The departmental conference on English was in charge of a committee

composed of James F. Hosis, of the Chicago Normal College, Mrs. Carrie E. T. Dracass, of the Englewood High School, Chicago, and Percy H. Boynton, of the University of Chicago. Four excellent papers were read, as follows: "The Possibilities," by Adah G. Grandy, of Deerfield-Shields Township High School; "Equipment," by Willard M. Smith, of Cicero Township High School; "Certain Published Lists," by Jessie E. Sherman, Parker High School, Chicago; "Some Difficulties," by Mabel Fletcher, of Decatur High School.

A similar conference is called at the Girls' High School in Brooklyn, New York, on May 8. Among the English teachers who expect to be present and take part in this discussion are the following: Franklin T. Baker, Columbia University, New York; Alfred M. Hitchcock, Hartford High School, Hartford, Connecticut; Sarah E. Simons, Central High School, Washington, D.C.; Edwin Fairley, Jamaica High School, Jamaica, New York; Benjamin A. Heydrick, High School of Commerce, New York.

The following topics will be discussed:

1. Necessary library equipment for modern English teaching—books, periodicals, clippings, illustrative material, bulletin boards, etc.
2. What the librarian can do in organizing this material.
3. Possibilities of a library classroom equipped with lantern, Victrola, a small stage for acting plays, etc.
4. Relation of the library to different phases of English work today.
 - a) Oral English. Debating. Public speaking.
 - b) Dramatization. What modern plays should the school library contain?
 - c) Cultivating a taste for good reading through the study of the best standard and contemporary literature.
 - d) Vocational guidance through English composition.
5. Importance of definite instruction of students in the use of books and library aids, card catalogue, indexes, reference books, etc.
6. Co-operation between school library and public library.
7. Encouraging the ownership of books.

There will be an exhibit of illustrated editions of books for high-school students, and it is hoped that Miss Margaret Coult, head of the English department of the Barringer High School, Newark, New Jersey, will tell of the use of clippings and pictures in her English work and illustrate her talk with examples from the Newark Public Library. The exhibit of clippings, pictures, illustrated editions, etc., at the National Council of English Teachers at Chicago, November, 1914, will be duplicated as far as possible.

The meeting is open to all interested in the topic for discussion.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PLAYS

The National Council Committee on Plays is making plans for practical and continuous assistance to teachers in need of help. A number of short lists of plays, with directions for producing, will be published in the *Journal*. In order to gather the results of practical experience the committee requests that all teachers who can will send in notes concerning plays which they have handled successfully.

The committee is also establishing a circulating exchange library of prompt-books. This will be in charge of Allan Abbott, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. Those who have them are urged to send in copies of plays with notes and pictures showing how they have been actually used. In this way it will be possible for any member of the National Council to borrow highly useful versions of plays by merely sending postage and agreeing to return the books within a reasonable time. The following conditions are to be observed: (1) The request for a prompt-book with notes, etc., must be accompanied by \$1.25 in stamps, of which 25 cents is to cover registered post and correspondence and one dollar is a deposit to be returned by the committee on receipt of the book in good condition. (2) The borrower agrees to be personally responsible for the material, to use it for reference only, making such copies as are needed for actual work, and to return it within *two weeks*.

Notes on the acting of plays and all other similar communications should be addressed to the chairman of the committee, J. M. Dorey, 924 Edgewood Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey.

INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. J. W. Searson makes the timely suggestion that all who are investigating problems which pertain to the teaching of English take pains to send brief reports to the *English Journal*. This would be of much assistance to the Council Committee on Scientific Investigation and might save a good deal of duplication of effort.